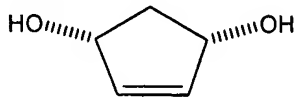
Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 17 through page 3, line 14 and insert the following amended paragraph:

"The first step in the process is determining the water content of pancreatin. The water content may be determined by methods well known to those skilled in the art. These methods include the Karl-Fischer titration, and measurement of weight loss after careful drying. The Karl-Fisher titration is preferred because of its greater speed, and because it is not certain that only water is lost on drying. The pancreatin may, at this point, either be mixed with *cis*-1,4-dihydroxycyclopent-2-ene (Formula II),



Formula II

and triethylamine in a solvent, in which case the water content of the mixture is adjusted such that the water is 5-7 % by weight relative to pancreatin. Alternatively, the step of adjusting the water content of the pancreatin may take place before adding the pancreatin to the mixture. In this case, the water content of the pancreatin is adjusted such that the water is 5-7 % by weight relative to pancreatin, and then the pancreatin with its associated water is mixed with *cis*-1,4-dihydroxycyclopent-2-ene, vinyl acetate, and triethylamine in a solvent. Either order of addition of water leads to the same reaction mixture. The amount of pancreatin used in proportion to substrate is not fixed. The less pancreatin used, the slower the reaction. It has been found that approximately one gram of 8X pancreatin per gram of substrate provides a convenient ratio and allows the reaction to be substantially complete in 22–24 hours. Prancreatins of greater purity such as 10X may be used in proportionally lower amounts, while pancreatins of lower purity, such as 4X, may be used in proportionally larger amounts. ~~The man~~ **One** skilled in the art can readily determine what proportion of pancreatin relative to substrate to use, based upon the purity level of the pancreatin, and the speed of reaction desired. Vinyl acetate is used in molar excess compared to the starting material. A range of 5 to 7 moles of vinyl acetate per mole starting material is convenient. A level of 6 moles of vinyl acetate per mole starting material provides good results. The triethylamine is present in catalytic quantities. A range of 0.02 to 0.1 moles of triethylamine per mole starting material is convenient. A level of 0.05 moles of triethylamine per mole starting material provides good results."